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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1903.

THE PURE ELECTIONS LAW.

The Democratic Committee of Henrico county, after thoroughly sifting the evidence in the case against W. H. Brauer, charged with violations of the Barksdale pure elections law in the recent primary contest in that county, decided that Mr. Brauer was guilty under specifications one and three of the charges filed, and, therefore, resolved "That the certificate of election as nominee of the Democratic party for the office of treasurer of Henrico county be, and is hereby, denied to said W. H. Brauer."

The two specifications under which Mr. Brauer was found guilty are as follows: "That on the day of July, 1903, said W. H. Brauer paid to L. D. Green, a voter in said county, at Baker's Precinct, the sum of \$10 for his services in working for said Brauer's nomination in said primary; and that again, on the day of August, 1903, at Mrs. Bell's store, in Fulton, said Brauer gave said Green \$2 to be spent in treating voters to influence them to support said Brauer at said primary."

That about one week before said primary said Brauer visited the saloon of Washington Bottoms, at Thirtieth and P Streets, near Hardin's Shop Precinct, and treated to drinks and cigars several voters at said precinct, intending thereby to influence their votes.

The law in this case is as plain as language could make it. It provides: "That no candidate for Congress, or for either house of the General Assembly of Virginia, or any State, county, district or municipal office, shall expend, pay, promise, loan or become pecuniarily liable in any way for any money or valuable thing to influence voters in his behalf, or permit the same to be used, with his knowledge and consent, by his friends or adherents in any election, primary or nominating convention."

The committee decided that in the Brauer-Todd-Hocher contest the law had been violated by Mr. Brauer, and, therefore, declared his nomination void. The committee did not make this law and is not responsible for it, but it is responsible for the execution of it, and it has discharged its duty courageously. There could not have been any possible misunderstanding of the law during the late contest in Henrico county. Time and again it was printed, and printed conspicuously, in the columns of this paper and otherwise, its leading features pointed out and its spirit emphasized, and all candidates and all persons concerned were given fair warning. A short while before the election it was reported that money would be unlawfully used in the contest, whereupon The Times-Dispatch again sounded the note of warning and put all persons concerned on notice that if they violated the law they must expect to incur the penalty thereof.

This law was enacted for a purpose, and it was purposely made as drastic and exacting as possible. The use of money in election contests in Virginia, in primary elections especially, had degenerated into an abuse, and had become so common and so pernicious as to demand a radical reform. To say nothing of the corrupt and demoralizing influence of the system, it put the poor man at a serious disadvantage, and practically excluded him from entering the contest against a rich opponent. Money was used to defeat and pervert the will of the people, and there was a general demand on the part of the honest voters of the State for a statute which would prohibit the use of money for other than the necessary and legitimate expenses of printing, renting halls and so on. The statute was designed to prevent the use of any money in any way, directly or indirectly, in large sums or small sums, to influence any man's vote one way or the other. The law must be everything or nothing; it must be rigidly enforced, or it will fall into ridicule and contempt and become a dead letter.

Objection has been raised to this measure that it will operate against honest candidates to the advantage of those who have no scruples about evading it. Therefore, it is especially important that the law shall be rigidly enforced. If so, and if its enforcement is backed up by the best and dominating sentiment of the State, it will be a blessing to the people, it will stop the corrupt use of money in elections, it will encourage honest men to run for office, even though they be too poor to spend money in the contest. It will put all candidates, so far as this consideration is concerned, upon the same footing; it will give the poor man the same chance as the rich man to make an honest contest for office. But if any violation be winked at, whether it be intentional or unintentional, the force and value of the law will be destroyed, and our last condition will be worse than the first. Better have no law on this

subject than one which is not regarded by candidates nor enforced by those whose duty it is to execute it.

In primary elections, especially, it is of supreme importance and greatly to be desired that the merit system shall prevail; that all candidates shall come before the people on the same footing; that the people shall make their selection according to merit, without undue influence of any sort, especially without pecuniary and corrupt influences of whatever character being brought to bear. The Barksdale pure elections law is a measure whose design is to secure this result, and its purpose will be subverted if it is obeyed in the spirit as well as in the letter. The law was made to be obeyed, and if disregarded by candidates they should be called to a strict account. The law was made to be enforced, and it should be enforced without fear or favoritism.

We do not undertake to pass upon the merits of this particular case, for we did not hear the evidence, and especially as the decision of the County Committee may not be final. The case has been appealed to the State Central Committee, and it should go before the higher tribunal without prejudice. But we think it may be said in fairness and without prejudice to this case that the law is on trial. This is the first contest that has been made under it, and the investigation has been closely watched by the people of the State, by those who are in favor of pure elections, as well as by those who believe in boodle. The Henrico Committee fully understood its duty and discharged its obligations to the party and to the public in a faithful, conscientious and fearless manner, bringing out the facts, exposing the whole system of barroom campaigning, which for so long a time has disgraced politics in Henrico county, and rendering a decision which seemed to it to be justified by the evidence.

The life of the law is in its spirit. If its spirit be violated with impunity, the law will necessarily become a dead letter.

The Brauer case will now go before the State Central Committee, which, if it takes jurisdiction, will review the evidence and pass upon the decision of the local committee. In the meantime there is other work for the Henrico Committee to do. Let the members proceed with it in earnestness, sincerity and courage, and let them feel assured that in all honest inquiries and righteous decisions they will be upheld by the public sentiment of this community and of the whole State.

LYNCH LAW.

"Thackeray in the Irish Sketch Book," Vol. I, chap. XVI, in Galway, says: "Then there is Lombard Street, otherwise called Deadman's Lane, with its narrow and crooked streets, a 'memento Mori' over the door where a dreadful tragedy of the Lynches was acted in 1483. It is Galway is the Rome of Connaught, James Lynch Fitzstephen, the Mayor, may be considered as the Lucius Junius Brutus thereof. Lynch had a son who went to Spain as master of one of his father's ships, and being of an extravagant, wild turn, there contracted debts, and drew bills, and alarmed his father's correspondent, who sent a clerk and nephew of his own back in young Lynch's ship to Galway to settle accounts. On the fifteenth day, young Lynch threw the Spaniard overboard. Coming back to his own country, he reformed his life a little, and was on the point of marrying one of the Blakes, Burkes, Bodkins, or others, when a seaman who had sided with him, being on the point of death, confessed the murder in which he had been a party. The father, the father, who was chief magistrate of the town, tried his son, and sentenced him to death; and, when the clan Lynch rose in a body to rescue the young man, and avert such a disgrace from their family, it is said that Fitzstephen, Lynch, had the culprit with his own hand. A tragedy called 'The Varden of Galway' has been written on the subject, and was acted a few nights before my arrival."

"Lynch law, a monument, a skull, and cross-bones, was carved on a slab of black marble, was erected in 1850 on Lombard Street, Galway, to commemorate this awful incident. Subsequently this was placed on the wall of St. Nicholas Church yard, where it may still be seen." Amer. Notes and Queries, Vol. V, Sept. 27, 1890, p. 254.

A correspondent sends us the foregoing along with a clipping containing our recent article on the origin of "lynch law," which we attribute to a Virginia source. We were not informed as to the Galway incident, but so far as we know the use of the term "lynch law," as now understood and applied in America, did not follow the Galway tragedy, whereas we find it in general use in this country in a few decades after the General Assembly of Virginia granted amnesty to Colonel Lynch and other citizens of Campbell county.

Nor did the act of the Galway Judge at all resemble the performances of the patriot lynchers in Virginia, who, in the absence of courts able to cope with the situation, administered "unofficial justice" to numbers of Tories and others who had attempted to upset the State government.

The Galway claimants, if we may so describe them, would have a better case if it could be shown that the term in question was in use prior to 1783, (when the Virginia amnesty act was passed), and that it was used to describe the administration of justice, so-called, by a mob.

THE "MELANCHOLY DAYS."

These are the days which a poet of old called "melancholy." But it seems to us that the poet must have taken the cue from his own feelings, and not from his surroundings. Surely there is nothing melancholy in Virginia's glorious October days. A walk in the afternoon through field or wood at this season is like a walk with God. Every old field is a flower garden with its blossoms of golden rod, and the leaves of the forest seem to have caught from the glow of the sinking sun all the most glorious colors that he paints upon the sky. This is the season of nature's maturity, and while her beauty in autumn differs from the beauty of spring as that of the well preserved matron differs from the beauty of the immature maid, it is beauty none the less, and beauty none the less glorious.

The heavens declare the glory of God and the earth showeth His handiwork.

If we may be permitted to make a slight change in the quotation.

It is the season for walking; for long, leisurely rambles over the yellow fields and through the purple woods. In the true meaning of the term there is no aristocracy in the United States, and never will be so long as the people are true to themselves. As for the "common people," of whom she speaks so contemptuously, they occupy a higher position in the political world, in the business world, in the industrial world and in the social world than ever before in the history of this land of democracy. And while Mrs. Fish may not know it, the best of these hold in supreme contempt the idle rich who live on their incomes, who do nothing for the promotion of commerce, industry, philanthropy or public morals, but who waste their substance in riotous living, making pleasure their business and their only occupation in life, indulging themselves in all sorts of extravagances and ridiculous excesses, and making of themselves a public laughing stock. If that class constitutes the aristocracy of this country, God save the mark.

"How much literature owes," says a writer in the October number of the Atlantic, "to the country walk! It was to that long walk outside the wall of Athens and to the long talk that Socrates held with Phaedrus under the palm tree by the banks of the Ilissus that we owe one of the most beautiful of the dialogues of Plato. There had been no georgics had not Virgil loved the country. Horace must as often have circumbambled his Sabine farm as he perambulated the Via Sacra. Chaucer must sometimes have pilgrimage afoot and Spencer trod as well as pricked o'er the plain. Shakespeare's poaching episodes gives us a glimpse into his youthful pursuits. Milton off to the woods among wood Philemon to hear her even-song; and even after his blindness not the more ceased he to wander where the muses haunt clear spring or shady grove or sunny hill. The Traveler of Goldsmith was the outcome of a walking tour; so was Robert Louis Stevenson's Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes. To how many minds walks about the green flat meads of Oxford have been a quiet stimulant we may get a hint from Matthew Arnold. Was it to Newman that Jowett, meeting him alone and afoot, put the query, 'Nunquam minus solus quam quom solus?' Of Jowett's walks many a tale is told; of De Quincey, who spent his youth in wanderings; of William Cowper, the gentle singer of the winter walk; of Thoreau; of Mr. John Burroughs; of Richard Jefferies; of Mr. Hamilton Wright Mable the discoverer of the Forest of Arden; of Mr. Henry Van Dyke, who, though primarily and avowedly a fisherman, would be, I warrant me, an incomparable companion for a walk, and whose books make the pent-up sigh for the open; of a Son of the Marshes; of Dr. Charles C. Abbott, that indefatigable Wasteland Wanderer; of Mr. Charles Goodrich Whiting the Saunterer; of that prince of walkers, of whom The Spectator said it was 'half a pity that such a man could not go walking about forever, for the benefit of people who are not gifted with legs so stout and eyes so discerning.'—I mean that erudite nomad, George Borrow; of Senancour, who, in his journeys afoot, experienced illusions important; of Louis J. Jennings; of Sir Leslie Stephen—of these and many another lover of outdoor Nature it is needless to speak."

It was doubtless a ramble that inspired Byron to write— "Where is a pleasure in the pathless wood There is society where none intrude."

But this article is not intended to be poetic. It is intended to be practical. A daily walk into the country in these glorious days of fall is good for the body as well as for the soul, and is better than any tonic which doctor can devise or chemist concoct.

The method of casting a "viva voce" vote used here at the legislative primary was not exactly the same as that employed before the war, nor was it as good a one. The old time way here in Richmond was for the voter to hand the judge of election a ticket upon the back of which was written his own name, while on the front were written or printed the names of the candidates for whom he wished to vote. This ticket the judge read aloud, and the clerk recorded the votes thus cast and the ticket was then filed.

The advantage of that arrangement was that in case a contest was made, all the evidence needed to decide it was at hand. But where no ticket is used and the record is questioned, there is nothing to rely on but the recollection of the people who were present.

The State of Ohio has erected in the battlefield of Sharpsburg (Antietam) a monument to "commemorate a noble deed" of Sergeant William McKinley, afterwards President of the United States. McKinley was a member of Company E, Twenty-third Ohio Infantry. On September 17, 1862, the day of the battle, he "personally, without orders, served hot coffee and warm food to every man in the regiment."

Though it is not so stated in the brief accounts we have seen, we suppose it was an act requiring courage and forethought, and we presume that the food and coffee were cooked by the sergeant in the rear and delivered on the firing line.

The next moon is the harvest moon, but a good deal of hustling and gathering can be done by the one that shines so brightly just now.

The Macedonians might get out an injunction against Turkey, and they would if they had an American Judiciary convenient.

With cotton high, peanuts doing better and tobacco climbing, the Virginia farmers are getting in good shape for Thanksgiving Day.

One trouble is that Mr. Jerome and Mr. Low cannot exactly agree to the best way to smite the Tammany tiger.

The stock market reports from New York indicate that some of the biggest fish in the pond are in hot water.

Various things, including some presidential booms, are getting ready to go into winter quarters.

Speaking about record breaking crops, the Virginia hickory nut trees have performed wonderfully this year.

President Roosevelt needs all of his alleged strenuousness. He has to prepare two congressional messages this winter.

No Indian summer has not reached old Virginia yet. This is the shank end of the regular almanac summer.

Indianapolis is a progressive town. There they have girl messenger boys and women policemen.

These cool days and the near approach of frost afford the dumb oyster little, if any comfort.

The mosquito exterminator has likewise gone into winter quarters.

No mistake about it: There is something doing in old "Hannacker."

Chesterfield county has produced the model primary election. No after claps.

United States, and they may continue to flock to themselves as much as they please, and they may call themselves, if they please, an aristocracy. But in the true meaning of the term there is no aristocracy in the United States, and never will be so long as the people are true to themselves.

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The political situation in New York continues to be interesting, with the Fusionists somewhat demoralized and Tammany in high feather. It is certain that Grout and Farn, two of Low's associates on the Fusion ticket, have agreed to accept Tammany's endorsement, and it is said that they first consulted Low, but that Mr. Low denies. However that may be, Grout and Farn, the former especially, are being denounced severely by the Fusionist papers.

It seems not improbable that unless the two recalcitrants withdraw from the Fusion ticket, Tom Platt will withdraw the Republican support from that organization.

The two gentlemen in question call themselves independent Democrats, and Grout holds the office of Comptroller, while Farn is president of the Board of Aldermen.

Twenty men from the hospital corps of the United States army are to be put upon trial at the Sheffield Scientific School, of New Haven, with the view of determining how much protein, or albuminous food, is required for the maintenance of health and strength under ordinary conditions. They will be put upon diets selected for the purpose of gradually disclosing the facts. It is believed the experiment will yield dietetic data of much scientific value, and we are sure they will be provided they are to be under the control of men who have no preconceived opinions—no theories they wish to substantiate.

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Half Hour With Virginia Editors.

The Appomattox Virginian hales to give up this old "cots day." It says: "The habit of meeting monthly at the county seat should not be permitted to fall into disuse. In England the custom of holding market once in each month brings the people together—women as well as men—and the day is looked forward to very much by our people. Can we not have some such institution in our State, which will bring the people together after the abolition of the county seat? It is the custom now, but our wisecracks get together between now and February 1st and devise means to bring about such a happy result."

The Salem Sentinel says: "Examinations in the public schools ought to be abolished," is the sentiment of the most of the newspapers in the State. Examinations as conducted in the schools of Henrico city, Henrico county, and Salem are just as hard on the teachers and scholars and just as useless as those held in other schools. Let's get rid of them all, once and forever. They are poor tests of a scholar's ability and knowledge, they make "cramping" necessary, and they are the cause of much cheating."

The Petersburg Index-Appel says: "Ex-Governor Brown, of Maryland, in favor of the nomination of Mr. Cleveland, and believes that he could be elected if he could get the nomination. Will the nomination party forever be a living exemplification of the truism that Grant's saying, 'that it could always be relied on to do something foolish.' It would be a foolish thing to do, but the best opportunity it has for success in 1904."

Noting the paucity of wedding announcements in its own and other newspaper columns, the Newport News Times-Herald remarks:

The fall wedding crop, like peristaltics, is never fully gathered until the frost strikes it.

Here is a gratifying statement from the Charlottesville Progress:

Some weeks ago we published extracts from a letter of Professor Berkeley Minor, of Staunton, showing that of every hundred surgeons in the United States army and navy twenty-five are graduates of the medical department of the University of Virginia. This is certainly most gratifying showing for our noble University.

North Carolina Sentiment.

The Greensboro Telegram says: "Mr. Cannon is making a great mistake in allowing a few small committee matters to proceed. The important matters of the great October reunion of native born North Carolinians. Somehow the importance of the approaching event in Greensboro cannot have been duly impressed on Uncle Joe."

Here is the way the Asheville Citizen puts it.

Mr. Payne has spoken; Miss Todd has spoken; Addicks' man, Allee, has spoken; the public has spoken. The President is coming, and "Admission" is called for. Will he speak? Or must the public be permitted to put its own construction on the chilly and ominous silence that greets the hover over Washington and Oyster Bay?

Referring to the driving of the negroes out of Waterloo, Iowa, the Charlotte Chronicle says:

We restrict the negro's suffrage in the South, while endeavoring to deprive him of a residence in our midst. The Chronicle is not alone in this. It is a common thing to draw invidious comparisons, but it is not time that Northern criticisms of the South's attitude toward the colored race should be so easily harassed by the white man's burden but we tote it all the same.

And the Greensboro Record notices similar doings in Indiana and up and says:

Here is Indiana again, the home of the fugitive slave, the land that made and operated the underground railroad away back yonder, raising money with a lot of engineers on the Big Four have refused to take out an engine manned by colored firemen. Down this way the firemen with few exceptions are colored.

The Winston-Salem Sentinel somewhat unkindly remarks:

The Hon. Joe Cannon, of Illinois, has sent word that he will not be able to attend the reunion of non-resident sons of North Carolina that is to be held at Raleigh, October 12th, but while the declaration of this distinguished gentleman to be present is to be regretted, still it will not be necessary to postpone or abandon the gathering on that account.

With a Comment or Two.

Just how the President could talk for an hour about the battle of Sharpsburg, or Antietam, as the Northerners call it, without mentioning the name of General McClellan is puzzling the Northern papers. Well, it's their controversy.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Maybe the President considered that encounter, so far as the troops engaged in it on the part of the Confederates, was a defeat. We may say that when General McClellan was relieved of the command of that army as he was, he was not a defeated man, but a man who knew that the authorities in Washington had turned down the most capable man they had.—Danville Register.

The church trust that is being formed in the Rob—O—terro small congregations to close their doors and thus strengthen the other churches—might reasonably be expected to get a visiting card from a certain editor in that town.—Norfolk Ledger.

That editor has been in the business long enough to know the danger of including horns with the church folks and, of course, he will keep them.

We regret we have not statistics of the per capita consumption of hard cider in this State, since the first of last July. From what we have seen in some of our exchanges the increase in the use of this cooling and refreshing but otherwise harmless beverage must be enormous.—Raleigh Post.

This cider increase is due, we presume to the Watt's law, which is Carolina's Mann bill.

Durham having no candidate for Governor this time, the Durham Herald is taking advantage of the unusual circumstances and is making cracks at every man named for the office.—Winston-Salem Sentinel.

Durham is about the only town in the State of any size which is without a gubernatorial candidate, if he returns we have been scanning are correct.

Personal and General.

Monsignor O'Connell, rector of the Catholic University at Washington, has been received in private audience by the Pope.

The women of Tom's River, N. J., have formed a village improvement society, to beautify the city, and have elected Mrs. G. E. Burr, president.

Benjamin F. M. Marshall has the largest watermelon patch in the world. It contains ten acres, yielded the largest watermelon, and is located in Scott county, Mo.

R. H. Lake, of Washington, has invented a pneumatic gun which he claims can shoot any kind of a curved base-ball known to the pitcher's art. He has been

CASTORIA

for Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought has borne the signature of Chas. H. Fletcher, and has been made under his personal supervision for over 30 years. Allow no one to deceive you in this. Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but Experiments, and endanger the health of Children—Experience against Experiment.

The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of

Chas. H. Fletcher
In Use For Over 30 Years.

THE DENTON COMPANY, 27 MURRAY STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

an enthusiastic "fan" for a number of years.

The Minnesota Historical Society will publish the diaries of Alexander Ramsey, who was Governor of Minnesota, when it was a territory, was Governor of the State during the Civil War and represented its people in the United States Senate. Those diaries cover a period of sixty years.

Alfred Mosley, of London, England, a writer of economic subjects, has entered his two sons as Freshmen in Yale University in preference to sending them to Oxford or Cambridge.

A Few Foreign Facts.

It is thought that as Elus X. represents the secular clergy, not being of the orders, it is a good omen in regard to the settlement of the vexed question of the property of the friars in the Philippines.

For the first time in the history of German universities a deaf mute has succeeded in obtaining a doctor's degree. Dr. Walter Kuntze, on whom the University of Leipzig conferred a Ph. D., is a comparatively young man. His thesis for the degree is regarded as one of the best in recent years.

Princess Ferdinand, of Roumania, has inherited much musical talent from her father, the late Duke of Coburg, who was "the leading prince of Great Britain." The Princess plays the violin well. She has a hobby for collecting perfume bottles.

Sir John Burgoyne, a descendant of the British general who distinguished himself during the American War for independent action by surrendering to General Gates, is about to wed a young woman in England, although he has passed his seventieth year.

The figures representing the white population of Great Britain's colonies will surprise many persons. The important ones are: Canada, 5,525,000; Australia, 2,380,000; South Africa, 375,000; New Zealand, 815,000, which makes a total of 11,075,000 persons. There are, however, says the London Times, 20,000 white persons now going to the colonies to settle each month as a result of hard times in England.

Of the ten prime ministers who served Queen Victoria, three died at an earlier age than Lord Salisbury. Sir Robert Peel died when he was 62, Lord Melbourne when he was 69 and Earl Derby at 70. Lord Aberdeen and Earl Russell lived to 76, Disraeli to 77 and Palmerston to 81. Mr. Gladstone was the longest lived. The average term of office of the Queen Victoria's prime ministers was 74.

ODDS AND ENDS.

Very Likely.
"Look at that messenger boy dawdling along there."

"Yes, with the inevitable dime novel. I wonder what those things are published for."

"That he who is supposed to run may read, perhaps."—Philadelphia Press.

People Who Read.

Germany heads the list as a reading nation. Russia is falling to zero. In 1883, 23,677 books were published in Germany, as compared with 8,823 in Russia. In regard to newspapers, the Germans have 2,000, while Russia has only 800. In Switzerland, 21; in Sweden, 4; and in Denmark, 44.

Cremation.

The practice of cremation makes slow progress despite the considerations in its favor which can be urged. Returns from a number of the leading countries show that last year there were cremated in England 3,163 bodies; in France, 4,432; in Germany, 5,061; in Italy, 3,421; in Spain, 1,000; in the United States, 1,000; in Switzerland, 21; in Sweden, 4; and in Denmark, 44.